

March 16, 2009

To: Members of the State of Connecticut, Joint Committee on Judiciary

Re: Senate Bill 353, sponsored by State Martin M Looney (D-11)

From: John O. Packard

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I urge that Senate Bill 353 be defeated as this bill will only serve to punish law abiding citizens, merchants and manufacturers, in our state. I see no truly responsible merit to this bill in terms of preventing crime or solving crimes.

Micro-stamping is an unproven technology that would require unique identifying information from the firearm, including the make, model, and serial number to be etched into the firing pin and breech face in such a manner that those identifiers are imprinted on the cartridge case upon firing. The technology can easily be defeated with common household tools, has no public safety value, and adds substantially to the cost of the firearm.

If SB 353 is passed, it will become ILLEGAL to sell or transfer any semi-automatic pistol that is not capable of micro-stamping. This would mean that any semi-auto handgun that you currently own could never be sold or transferred in Connecticut. This would ban the sale of used semi-auto handguns without the technology and would prohibit estates from bequeathing semi-auto handguns that do not include micro-stamping technology.

Since no manufacturers currently incorporate micro-stamping in their firearms, this bill would result in a de facto ban on all semi-automatic handguns in Connecticut.

I believe this proposed legislation to be frivolous, and irresponsible and the product perhaps well meaning but badly misinformed officials who have not perform proper due diligence in researching the content of this proposed legislation. Worst case it is an attempt to commit an act of repression on the part of single minded individuals who's only real agenda continues to be to deprive honest responsible firearms owners, and honest firearms related business owners of their constitutional rights and the ability to enjoy the sporting pastimes, traditions, and livelihoods that enrich and sustain their lives.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

John O. Packard